

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Williamsburg (City)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
WILLIAMSBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Williamsburg

STATE  
Virginia 23185

CODE 51 COUNTY: Williamsburg (City) CODE 830

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Colonial Williamsburg, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Williamsburg

STATE:  
Virginia 23185

CODE 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Williamsburg

STATE:  
Virginia 23185

CODE 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
HABS

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
D.C.

CODE 11

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

a. BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The colonial capital of Virginia, with a span of importance almost exactly coinciding with the eighteenth century colonial period, never approached Charleston as a metropolis, though it was the political and cultural center of one of the leading colonies. Its particular value, aside from its political importance, stems from the remarkable interpretive program which for some years has been carried on by Colonial Williamsburg. For a century and a half a quiet college town and county seat, Williamsburg today is an outstanding example of restoration and interpretation. The aim of the restoration has been to "re-create accurately the environment of the men and women of 18th-century Williamsburg and to bring about such an understanding of their lives and times that present and future generations may more vividly appreciate the contribution of these early Americans to the ideals and culture of our country."

The restoration, begun in 1927 under the auspices of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to date has involved the razing or removal of some 600 buildings, the restoration of approximately 100, and the reconstruction of about 350 on their original sites. Noteworthy restorations include the Wren Building (1695-1702), Brafferton Hall (1723) and the President's House (1732), all of the College of William and Mary; the Public Magazine (1714); the Ludwell-Paradise House (1717); the Old Court House (1770); Bruton Parish Church (1710-15); and the George Wythe House (1755). Among the more ambitious reconstructions are the Governor's Palace (original built 1706-20); the Colonial Capitol Building (original constructed 1701-05); and the Raleigh Tavern (original built before 1742). Mention also should be made of a newly completed Reception Center, located outside the restored area, which is the center of the interpretive program for Colonial Williamsburg.

b. BOUNDARIES: Following boundaries have been established for "Historic Colonial Area" per Section 26-45, Article XI, Williamsburg City Code, July 1, 1966:

"Beginning at a point on the north side of Duke of Gloucester Street two hundred feet east of the east line of North Henry Street said point also being ten feet west of the John Blair House; thence northerly to the south side of Prince George Street; thence easterly to a point approximately sixty feet west of west line of Nassau Street; thence in a northerly direction across Prince George Street; thence continuing along the west side of the Goodwin property approximately one hundred and sixty feet; thence easterly to the east side of Nassau Street; thence in a northerly direction along the east side of Nassau Street to the north side of Scotland Street; thence easterly one hundred and twenty feet to the west property line of the Governor's Palace site; thence in a northerly direction to south side of Lafayette Street; thence easterly along south side of Lafayette Street to the west property line of the Colonial Williamsburg warehouse area; thence in a southeasterly direction to the south line of Franklin Street;

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7 b. CONT'D.

thence east along south line of Franklin Street and the south line of Franklin Street extended to east side of Lafayette Street; thence along the east side of Lafayette Street to the south side of York Street; thence in a southerly direction four hundred feet to a point; thence in a westerly direction approximately six hundred feet to a point two hundred feet south of Francis Street; thence along a line two hundred feet south of and paralleling the south side of Francis Street to the west side of England Street; thence southerly along the west side of England Street seventy feet to a point; thence westerly to a point on the west property line of Colonial Historical Parkway, said point being one hundred and sixty feet south of Francis Street; thence southerly along the west property line of the Colonial Historical Parkway two hundred and seventy feet to a point; thence westerly along a line which is the extension of the south side of Ireland Street to the east side of South Henry Street; thence northerly along the east side of South Henry Street to a point one hundred and ninety feet from Duke of Gloucester Street; thence easterly two hundred feet to a point; thence northerly crossing Duke of Gloucester Street to the point of beginning."

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☒ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☐ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                      |  |   |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>Development of</u>                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | <u>the English</u>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>Colonies</u>                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |                                      |  | _____   |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 18th century capital of Colonial Virginia, restored since 1927 under the auspices of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., involving the restoration of some 100 buildings and the reconstruction of approximately 350 more. Mostly owned and administered by Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., with some private ownerships.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture From the First Colonial Settlements to the National Period (New York, 1952); Williamsburg Holding Corporation, The Williamsburg Restoration: A brief review of the plan, purpose and policy of the Williamsburg Restoration . . . . (Williamsburg, 1931); Architectural Record, The Restoration of Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia (New York, 1935).

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	37° 16' 32"	76° 42' 21"	0		
NE	37° 16' 33"	76° 41' 23"			
SE	37° 16' 08"	76° 41' 20"			
SW	37° 16' 05"	76° 42' 21"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 173

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
Frank S. Melvin	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Virginia State Office, National Park Service	6/30/72
STREET AND NUMBER:	
Box 10008	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Richmond	Virginia 23240
	CODE
	51

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS